

Pay-As-You-Throw An Overview

SWAC Meeting
February 15, 2005

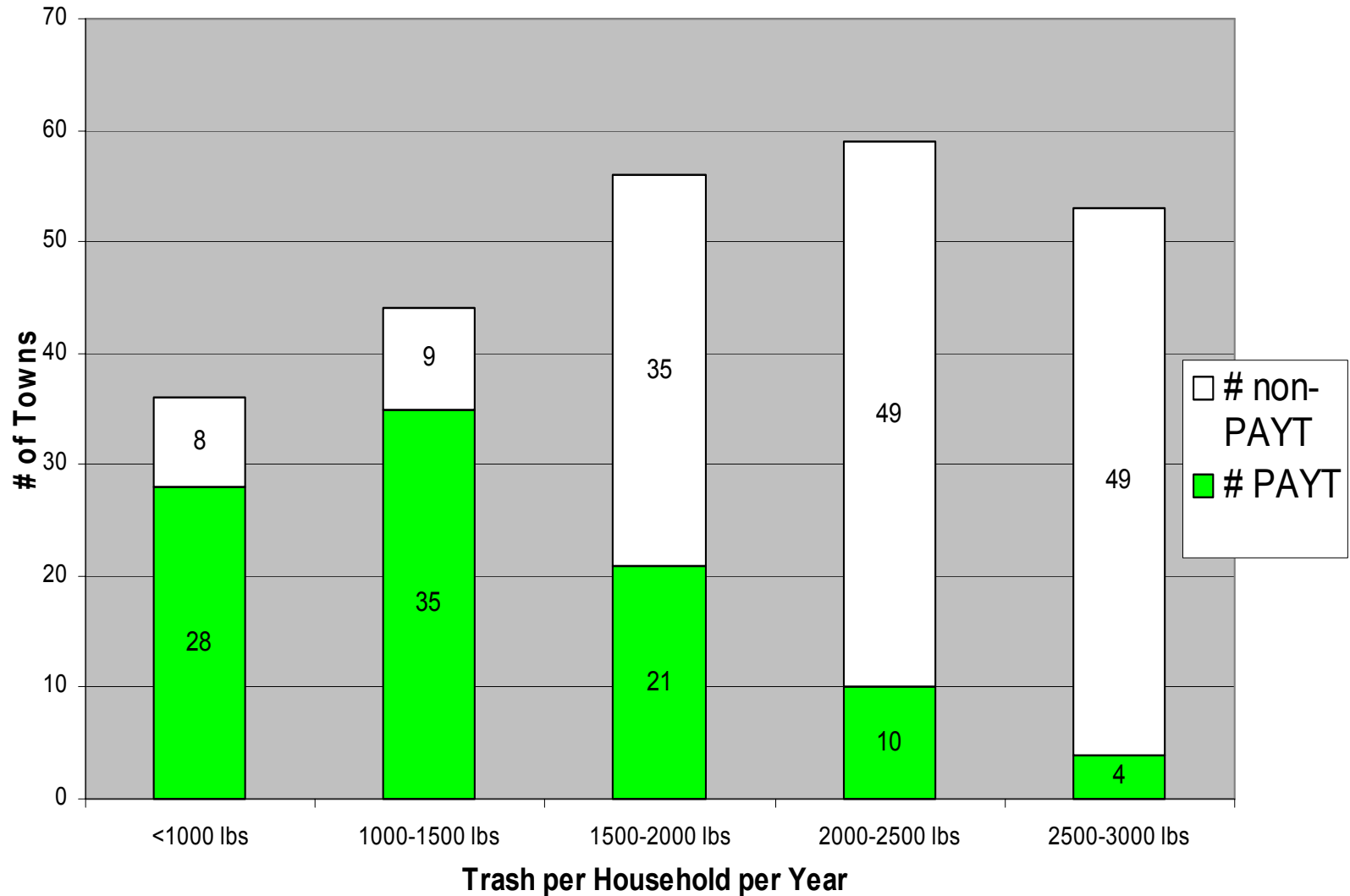
Why PAYT?

- Single most effective tool for increasing recycling, reducing waste
- 20-35% reduction in waste disposed
- Reduces MSW mgmt costs
- Fairness – “those who waste aren’t subsidized by those who recycle”
- Signals to users (residents) that waste disposal has a cost
- “Throw tax revenue into a landfill or into schools, public safety and public works”

How it Works

- Like a utility
 - Those who use more service (trash disposal) pay more
 - Those who recycle, save more
- Residents pay for each bag or barrel disposed
 - Recyclables (and yard waste) collected at no added cost
 - Incentive to reduce, recycle and compost

Per Household Disposal



Where is it working?

- In 110 Massachusetts municipalities
- In cities w/ curbside trash and recycling:
 - Brockton, Worcester, Taunton
- In suburbs w/ curbside trash and recycling:
 - Milton, Concord, Natick, Manchester, Holliston, Gloucester, Topsfield, Boxford, Maynard, North Attleboro, Medway, Merrimac
- Many drop-off communities
- Many programs have 10+ years of experience

Growing Interest

- 21 new PAYT programs in the past 4 years
- 19 PAYT grant applications in FY05
- Requests for planning assistance or start-up grant

City of Brockton

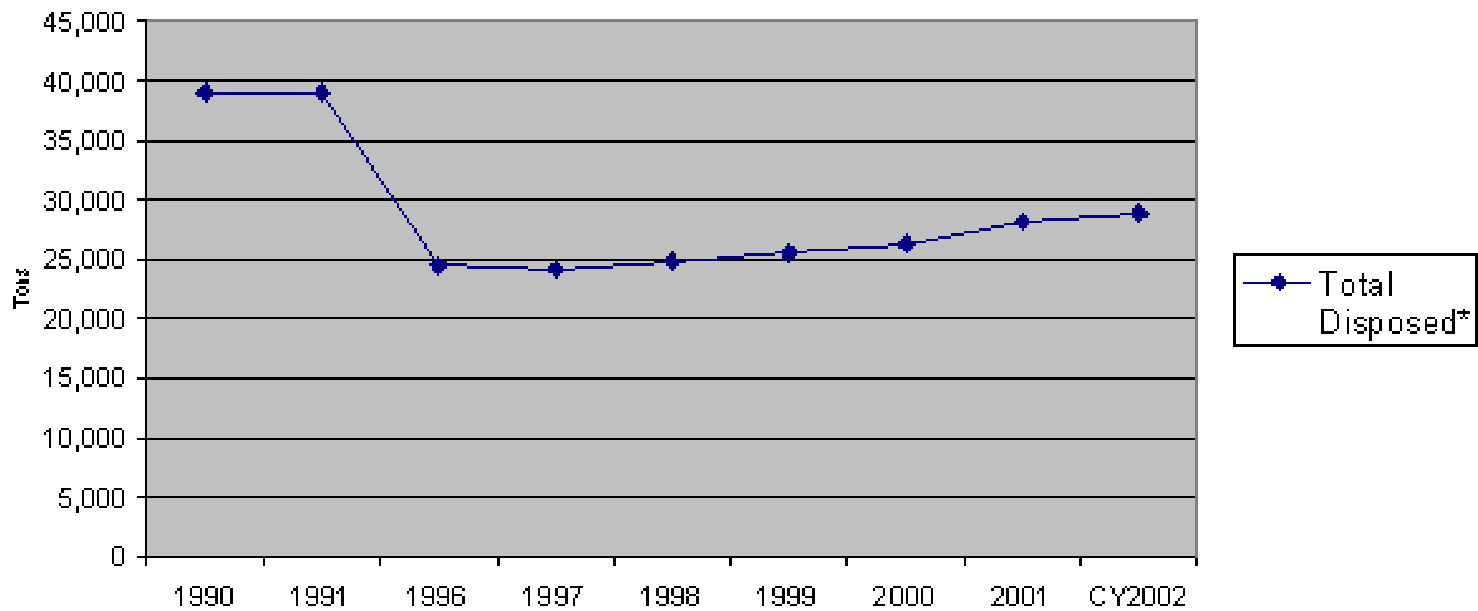


City of Worcester



City of Worcester

Solid Waste Disposal



Town of Wrentham

- PAYT adopted July, 2004
- 1 bag/barrel collected, no direct charge
- Results to date (12/31/04):
 - 32% reduction in solid waste tonnage
 - 34% increase in recycling tonnage
 - Average trash per hh is 30 lbs. (down from 44 lbs.)

PAYT Options

- Imprinted Trash Bags
- Stickers
- Barrel or Wheeled Cart
- Bags or Stickers Sold in Local Supermarkets and Convenience Stores
- Basic service (1 barrel/week)
- Additional barrels require sticker/bag

Program Financing

Recommended system:

- Two Tiered Financing
- Collection and Transportation (Fixed Costs) are Paid out of Tax Revenue or Annual Flat Fee to Residents
- Disposal Costs (Tipping Fees) are paid out Bag/Sticker Revenue

The Challenges

- Public perception that the fee is a tax
- Belief that PAYT will encourage illegal dumping
- Hardship for elderly/fixed income households
- Higher administrative costs for bag/sticker distribution and revenue collection

Overcoming the Challenges

- Allow plenty of lead time (1-2 years)
- Extensive outreach and education
 - elected officials
 - general public
 - community groups
 - the media
- Public forums
- Do the math – how will PAYT reduce costs, provide benefits?

Overcoming Challenges

- Provide waiver or subsidy for fixed income residents
- Establish enforcement guidelines for illegal dumping and resident non-compliance

Illegal Dumping

- Illegal dumping happens everywhere
- Most common items are white goods, C&D waste, tires and yard waste.
- Vast majority of PAYT communities did not see increase
- Key is aggressive enforcement early on
- Provide bulky waste & yard waste collection or drop-off access
- Create disincentives to dump illegally
- Residents often are the best defense

How DEP Can Help

- Technical Assistance throughout the process:
 - Workshops, web site, educ. material
 - Evaluation: cost/benefit analysis
 - Planning: financial model, contracting, education, public meetings
 - Implementation

DEP Grants

- Grants available for new PAYT programs
- Up to \$5 per household, cap of \$100,000
- Funds for start-up/implementation
- Education grants

For more info:

- www.mass.gov/dep/recycle/cities.htm
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